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MAIL STOP AF
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 3700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: C.E. Miller et al. Attorney Docket No.: WEYE120656/22193
Application No.: 10/603,981 Art Unit: 3761 / Confirmation No.: 3856
Filed: June 24, 2003 Examiner: C.L. Anderson
Title: ABSORBENT STRUCTURE FOR ABSORBING BLOOD

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR RESPONSE
AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

A. Response Transmittal

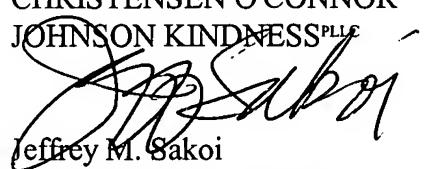
Transmitted herewith is response in the above-identified application. No additional claim fee is required.

B. Additional Fee Charges or Credit for Overpayment

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-1740. This authorization also hereby includes a request for any extensions of time of the appropriate length required upon the filing of any reply during the entire prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first-class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: 7/19/06

JMS:cj



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RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Seattle, Washington 98101

July 19, 2006

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 19, 2006, applicants submit the following remarks.

Claims 1-25 and 27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-25 and 27 have been rejected. Specifically, Claims 1-25 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In view of the remarks that follow, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-9, 14, 15, 24, and 25 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 14, 15, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,762,339, issued to Klun et al. (hereinafter "Klun"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,261,679, issued to Chen et al. (hereinafter "Chen").

The Office Action states that Klun discloses all aspects of the claimed invention, with the exception of the blood absorbent enhancing agent being present in a first amount adjacent the first surface and a second amount adjacent the second surface. The Office Action cites Chen as teaching the application of an antimicrobial agent in an absorbent structure in a gradient. Thus,

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